

CLAIMS

1. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:
using a data connection to receive a plurality of descriptions of audio
5 contents;
receiving from the user a selection of a first description from among the
plurality of descriptions; and
placing a voice call to play a first audio content described by the first
description in response to the selection.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein each audio content in the plurality is
associated with a telephone number, the method further includes:
using the data connection to receive a telephone number, and dialing the
telephone number during the placing of voice call.
- 15 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the telephone number is hereinafter "first
telephone number", the method further comprising, after termination of said voice call:
receiving a plurality of additional descriptions of additional audio
contents; and
20 placing another voice call to a second telephone number, wherein said
second telephone number is different from said first telephone number.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising, after termination of said voice
call:
25 receiving a plurality of additional descriptions of additional audio
contents; and
placing another voice call to said telephone number to play an additional
audio content.
- 30 5. The method of Claim 4 further comprising:
dynamically assigning a different one of a plurality of predetermined
phone numbers to each of a plurality of descriptions to be displayed as a group to
the user for selection therein.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
using the selection of first description identified by the data connection to
play the audio content during the voice call.

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7. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
each of the data connection and the voice call are respectively formed with
a first logic and a second logic; and
the method includes the first logic providing information about the user to
the second logic.

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8. The method of Claim 7 wherein:
the information being provided includes an identifier of an audio content
currently described to the user.

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9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:
receiving a plurality of calls from a corresponding plurality of users; and
matching the audio content to be played with a call, based on an identifier
obtained from a wireless handset of the user.

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10. The method of Claim 7 further comprising:
retrieving each of the audio contents from the Internet.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
visually displaying the descriptions on a monitor of a wireless handset.

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12. The method of Claim 11 further comprising, prior to said using:
using the data connection to receive a plurality of categories;
visually displaying the categories on the monitor; and
requesting said plurality of descriptions in response to selection of a
category in said plurality of categories;
wherein said plurality of descriptions are all classified under said category.

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13. The method of Claim 11 wherein:
the selected category is news;
each description is a news headline; and
each of the audio contents is a news report that provides details related to
said news headline.

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14. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:
using the data connection to receive a plurality of additional categories;
visually displaying the additional categories on the monitor; and
requesting said plurality of categories in response to selection of an
additional category.

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15. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
terminating the voice call on completion of playing of the first audio
content.

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16. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
the data connection is suspended during the voice call.

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17. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
each description is different in content from another description.

18. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
during the act of visually displaying, telephone numbers corresponding to
the descriptions are not displayed.

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19. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
said placing of voice call is performed automatically in response to said
selection of first description.

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20. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
displaying a telephone number to be used in the voice call in response to
the selection; and

performing said placing of voice call only after receiving a response from
the user to dial the phone number being displayed.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein:
5 said receiving a response is one of: detecting pressing of a button,
detecting touching of a monitor, and detecting a voice command.
22. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
10 using the data connection to receive a plurality of phone numbers for a
corresponding plurality of descriptions.
23. The method of Claim 22 wherein:
15 said phone numbers and said descriptions are received as portions of a
single message.
24. The method of Claim 22 wherein:
said descriptions are received in a first message; and
said phone numbers are received in a second message.
25. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
20 transmitting the selection over the data connection; and
receiving from the data connection a telephone number to be used during
said placing of voice call.
26. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
25 each of said acts of using data connection and placing voice call includes
using a wireless medium.
27. The method of Claim 1 wherein:
30 said voice call is not a Voice Over IP call.
28. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:
using a data connection to receive a description of an audio content;

receiving from the user a command to play the audio content; and
placing a voice call to play the audio content in response to the command.

- 5 29. The method of Claim 28 further comprising:
 each of the data connection and the voice call are respectively formed with
 a first logic and a second logic; and
 the method includes the first logic providing information about the user to
 the second logic.
- 10 30. The method of Claim 29 wherein:
 the information being provided includes an identifier of an audio content
 currently described to the user.
- 15 31. A handheld device comprising:
 a keypad;
 a monitor;
 a memory encoded with a plurality of descriptions of audio contents and at
 least one telephone number related to playing of at least one of said audio
20 contents;
 a microprocessor coupled to the memory, the keypad, and to the monitor;
 a transceiver coupled to the microprocessor; and
 a speaker coupled to the transceiver.
- 25 32. The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:
 the memory holds a plurality of telephone numbers including said
 telephone number, each telephone number corresponding to a description.
- 30 33. The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:
 the microprocessor retrieves from memory the telephone number and
 passes said telephone number to the transceiver for set up of a voice call in
 response to a signal from said keypad.
34. The handheld device of Claim 33 wherein:

said transceiver plays said at least one audio content on said speaker in
response to setup of said voice call.

- 5 35. The handheld device of Claim 31 wherein:
 each description in said plurality identifies a headline of a news story.
36. The handheld device of Claim 31 further comprising:
 an antenna;
 wherein the transceiver includes wireless circuitry coupled to the antenna.
- 10 37. A system comprising:
 a plurality of storage elements including a first group of said storage
 elements holding a plurality of descriptions of a corresponding plurality of audio
 contents and a second group of said storage elements holding said audio contents;
15 a first logic coupled to said first group of storage elements to receive
 therefrom a group of said descriptions, said first logic being coupled to a data
 communication network to provide thereto said group of descriptions; and
 a second logic coupled to said second group of storage elements to receive
 therefrom an audio content, said second logic being coupled to a telephony
20 network to provide thereto said audio content, said second logic being further
 coupled to said first logic to receive therefrom an identification of said audio
 content;
 wherein said audio content is one of a plurality of audio contents described
 in said group of descriptions.
- 25 38. The system of Claim 37 wherein:
 said first logic includes a modem or a router; and
 said second logic includes a telephone call processing circuit.
- 30 39. The system of Claim 37 wherein:
 the plurality includes a third group of storage elements holding a database
 that relates a cell phone number of a user to a subscriber ID of a cell phone
 possessed by the user.

40. The system of Claim 37 further comprising:
a handheld device having a monitor capable of displaying said group of
descriptions, the handheld device further having a speaker and a transceiver
capable of playing said audio content on the speaker;
wherein the handheld device receives said group of descriptions from said
first logic over a data connection, identifies a description in said group that
describes said audio content to said first logic over said data connection, and
receives said audio content from said second logic over a voice call.

41. The system of Claim 40 wherein:
the transceiver includes wireless circuitry.

42. The system of Claim 40 wherein:
the handheld device has the form factor of a cell phone.

43. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:
using a data connection to receive a number of descriptions of audio
content;
displaying the descriptions to the user;
receiving from the user a command to play one of the audio contents
described by the descriptions;
placing a voice call in response to the command;
playing said audio content to the user during the voice call; and
returning to using the data connection in response to completion of the
voice call.

44. The method of Claim 43 further comprising:
using an available telephone number to generate an instruction for said
placing of voice call.

45. The method of Claim 44 further comprising:

forming an association between said telephone number and said audio content; and
using said association on receipt of said voice call at said telephone number in identifying said audio content for said playing.

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46. The method of Claim 44 further comprising:
identifying the user on receipt of said voice call; and
using identity of the user on receipt of said voice call to identify said audio content for said playing.

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47. The method of Claim 43 further comprising:
displaying to the user a plurality of categories of audio contents; and
receiving from the user a selection of a category prior to said using of data connection.

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48. The method of Claim 47 wherein:
at least one of said categories relates to news; and
each description in said plurality identifies a news service.

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49. The method of Claim 47 further comprising:
displaying to the user a plurality of subcategories of audio contents; and
receiving from the user a selection of a subcategory prior to said using of data connection;
wherein each subcategory relates to a news service and each description relates to a headline of a news story.

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50. A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions to perform the method of Claim 43.

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51. A signal encoded in a carrier medium and including instructions to perform the method of Claim 43.

52. A method of interfacing to a user, the method comprising:

a first computer using a data connection to transmit a plurality of
categories of audio content;
a handheld device visually displaying the categories to the user;
the handheld device receiving from the user a selection of a first category
from said plurality of categories;
the first computer using said data connection to transmit a number of
descriptions of audio content in said first category;
the handheld device visually displaying the descriptions to the user;
the handheld device receiving from the user a command to play one of the
audio contents described by the descriptions;
the handheld device placing a voice call in response to the command;
a second computer playing said audio content during the voice call; and
the handheld device using the data connection in response to completion
of the voice call.

53. The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

the handheld device repeating the act of visually displaying said
descriptions to the user after completion of the voice call.

54. The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

the second computer identifying the user on receipt of said voice call.

55. A system comprising:

means for placing a telephone call over a wireless network and for visually
displaying data;

means for supplying descriptions of audio selections as data to the means
for placing; and

means for playing an audio selection to the means for placing.

56. The system of Claim 55 wherein:

the means for playing and the means for supplying are implemented in a
single computer.

57. The system of Claim 55 wherein:
the means for playing is implemented in a first computer;
the means for supplying is implemented in a second computer; and
the first computer is coupled to the second computer to exchange
5 information that correlates a description to an audio selection.

58. The system of Claim 55 wherein:
the means for placing receives the data through a wireless data connection
to the means for supplying; and
10 the means for placing receives the audio selection through a voice call to
the means for playing.